

THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser.

WALLACE R. FARRINGTON, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY : : : MAY 26.

KEEP COOL.

The first results of Hawaii's diplomatic correspondence with Japan has led to a large amount of jingo talk which is particularly untimely just at present. Our good people should remember that notwithstanding Hawaii is a sovereign state, it is the underdog in the fight and at best is at the mercy of its national friends. The utmost confidence may be felt in the justice of the position Hawaii has taken, but it is by no means out of the woods. The government's letter to Japan does not end the affair.

Many feel confident the United States will recognize the justice of Hawaii's cause and act accordingly, but we have no assurance of such recognition. National powers have a way of not always following in the pathway, which to the public eye seems the only true and honorable course. In the affair that started Greece's present troubles the public sentiment of the civilized world favored the Cretans in their struggle for independence and praised Greece when it took up the sword to advance the power of Christain civilization. But this public sentiment counted for naught against the ruling of European Powers that the domain of the Sultan must not be disturbed. The affair we have on our hands is not an exact parallel, but the situation is such that we may draw valuable lessons. We can at least appreciate the wisdom of making haste slowly.

It is decidedly to Hawaii's advantage to be upon friendly terms with its near neighbors. It cannot afford to carry a jingo policy to any great lengths. Every avenue of pacific method should be exhausted before attempting drastic measures. This first exchange of diplomatic notes has defined the position of the two nations. Further explanations will now be in order. Japan will not be satisfied with the brief statement that Hawaii considers it has committed no wrong. We do not believe this government will refuse the more detailed explanation that will doubtless be requested.

Meanwhile the public will do well to keep cool. Diplomatic mills grind slowly, sometimes turning out unexpected and peculiar results. While American intervention is not an impossibility neither is the suggestion of forcible collection of an indemnity an impossibility. Japanese and American diplomats are in close touch. Commercial relations and national friendship between Japan and the United States may come up for consideration before this business is settled.

STILL UNSETTLED.

Hawaii's commercial prospects are still in the balance, with the prospect that Senatorial discussion of the tariff bill will keep the people of this country on the anxious seat till well into the summer. The sugar schedule of the amended tariff is being subjected to the most scorching criticism by the American press and a stormy pathway is promised when the discussion in the Senate is opened. The old statements regarding improper dabbling in stocks are being resurrected, and although there is no ground for the slander the talk serves to arouse the people. What the final effect of this agitation will be remains to be seen. It may not cause a direct reversal of the schedule now before the Senate, but it will undoubtedly influence the House to stand by its original schedule when the bill goes to the conference committee. Hawaii's

principal danger is that the cry against the so-called "non-reciprocal reciprocity treaty" will result in a compromise whereby Hawaiian sugars will be allowed a "benefit" of 1/2 or 3c.

As the discussion goes forward we are more impressed with the sleepy attitude of this community during the past few years. Our opponents have been organizing and preparing for the fray like well trained politicians. Hawaiian representatives find they fighting old warriors; they find Congressmen harassed by the demands from constituents, weighed down with the problems local affairs present. As one man well expresses it, they find themselves in much the same position as the passenger who, in the midst of a cyclone, asked the captain of the ship, "What do you think about the inspiration of the Bible?" The present state of affairs ought to teach this community that eternal vigilance is the price of the commercial success of the nation.

The developments of the past few weeks have shown that the annexation question will not be considered during the extra session. All interest is centered in the tariff bill and to the tariff bill the legislators will be held. When the bill is passed Congress will adjourn. There is of course always the possibility of a bolt of lightning from a clear sky but it will not do to count upon such remarkable happenings. Local affairs must be straightened out before leaders of the United States Congress will launch out upon new and untried fields.

This state of affairs should by no means discourage the people here. It ought to arouse them to more active work in preparation for the presentation of their claims at the regular session. Reports relating to the opinions of President McKinley are decidedly reassuring, but this should not inspire our people with too much confidence. Our advocates should keep in close and constant touch with the situation in and about Washington.

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til the United States has given its final answer for or against.

Labor Commissioner Fitzgerald's report upon conditions in Hawaii is about what might have been expected in view of remarks made in interviews published before he left Honolulu. He is convinced that climatic conditions are not such as to forever bar the white man from labor in Hawaiian cane fields. He advances arguments in support of the Reciprocity Treaty which American statesmen can hardly afford to cast aside. He sounds a note in Hawaii's interests which will touch a sympathetic chord in the labor circles throughout the United States. We believe it will be effective as were Mr. Fitzgerald's arguments when dealing with the question during his stay in this country.

WILL OFFER AN AMENDMENT.

Senator McEnery Opposes Sugar Schedule.
WASHINGTON, May 17. — Many messages to the West to go to Hawaii by tomorrow's steamer have been dispatched today, and all tell the same story as has been told in the Chronicle that there will be a reciprocity provision in the bill when it is passed. There was a forecast of this today when McEnery of Louisiana introduced as a substitute, the same clause as is in the House bill.

Senator McEnery today gave notice of an amendment he will offer to the tariff bill, striking out the Senate amendments in the sugar schedules and reinserting the House provisions in regard to sugar.

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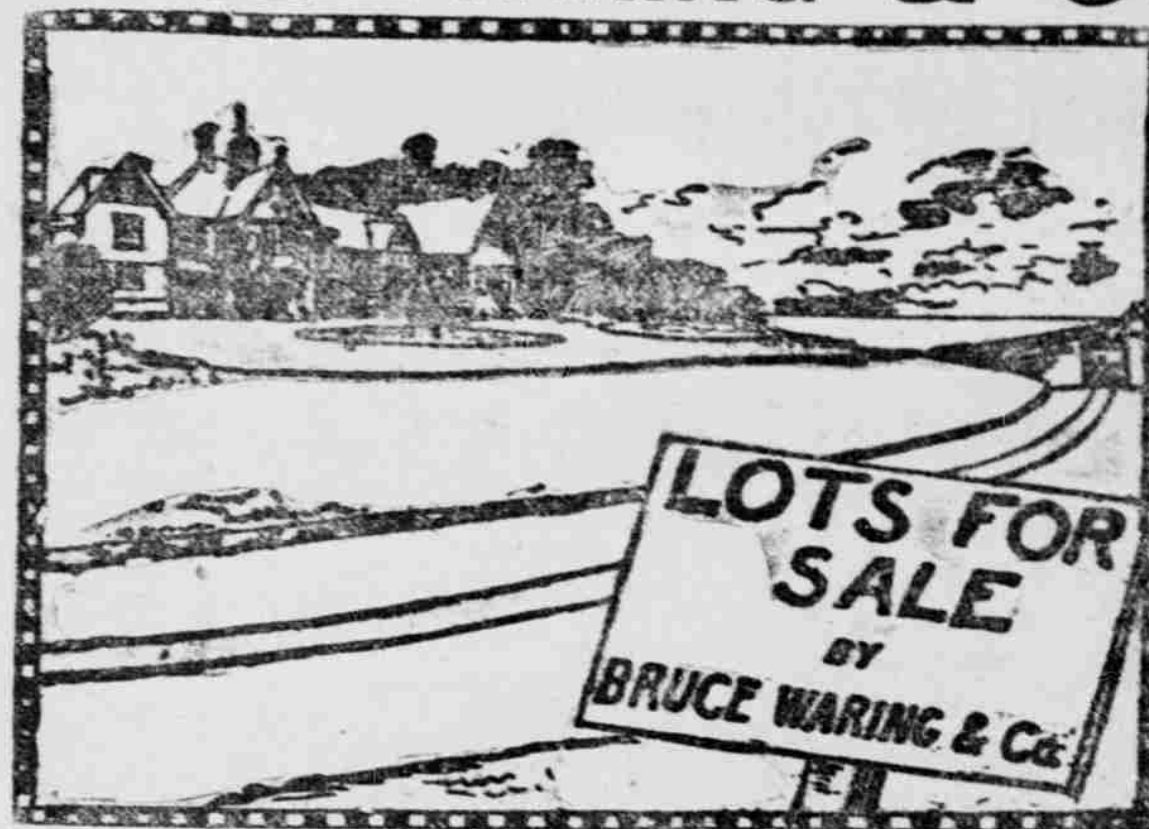
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